



12 JUL 1961

Legislative Counsel

Assistant Director, SI

Reply to the Honorable Joseph E. Karth

1. In response to your 5 July request, a proposed reply to the Honorable Joseph E. Karth is attached.

2. As is indicated, we have received a number of letters from Mr. Davidson on the subject of Flying Saucers since 1958. We have in every case referred these letters to the Air Force for appropriate reply inasmuch as they are the Executive Agent in such matters. In each instance we have notified Mr. Davidson of such action.

3. Our file on this matter is rather extensive and should you have any additional questions, we would be pleased to attempt to answer them.

Philip J. Strong
for Herbert Scoville, Jr.

Attachment:
Reply to Honorable Joseph E. Karth

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13 JUL 1961

Honorable Joseph E. Karth
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Karth:

In response to your 20 June inquiry concerning statements made by Leon Davidson in his 26 June letter to you, please be advised that Mr. Davidson has been involved in rather extensive correspondence with this Agency and with the Air Force since early 1958 on the matter of UFO's.

Mr. Davidson believes that the Central Intelligence Agency is withholding information from him which would prove that this Agency is, to quote his letter to you ". . . solely responsible for creating the Flying Saucer furore. . . ." He believes further that this information is contained in the Scientific Advisory Panel Report on UFO's, dated 17 January 1953, (Secret). Mr. Davidson was supplied with the declassified and "Official" version of this report, but this apparently has only served to convince him that what is being withheld is information which would prove his claim. This is in spite of the fact that he was informed* as long ago as 20 May 1958 that "The complete formal report of the panel has not been fully declassified for security reasons. The Formal Report is not available to the general public for distribution or reproduction," and "For your information, the classified portion of the Formal Report and the unofficial supplement did not deal specifically with UFO's but on other matters of intelligence significance which affect the national security." In addition, Major Tacker went to great lengths, in this four page letter, outlining to Mr. Davidson all of the information currently available on the subject of UFO's, interpreting the Formal Report of the Scientific Advisory Panel, commenting on erroneous or

*Letter from Major Lawrence J. Tacker, U.S. Air Force Executive Officer, Public Information Division, Office of Information Services

misleading statements on this report in Captain Ruppelt's book, "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects", and explaining why a portion of the report was classified. A copy of this letter is appended for your information.

In summary, Mr. Davidson's belief that this Agency is involved in the "Flying Saucer furore" and is using this as a tool in psychological warfare is entirely unfounded. His indication that CIA is misguiding persons in leading them to believe in Flying Saucers is also entirely unfounded. This Agency in conjunction with the Air Force investigated, in 1953, the threat to national security of the then prevalent Flying Saucer rumors. Since that time, CIA has not participated in any Flying Saucer activities and has referred all correspondence to the U. S. Air Force.

Very truly yours,

s/ Lawrence R. Houston

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

Enclosures:
1. Letter, 26 June 1961, from L. Davidson
2. Letter, 20 May 1958, from Major Tacker
3. Letter, 21 May 1958

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